

This is ridiculous! The National Association of Broadcasters is trying to protect their monopoly on local service. Obviously, if consumers are buying expensive new satellite radios and paying the monthly/yearly service fees, their needs aren't being met by the existing broadcasters. Since XM and Sirius are each trying in their own way to meet consumer needs, and consumers have responded, I don't see what the problem is here. If local broadcasters feel threatened, they need to compete better. That's what our capitalist system in the US is all about.

I would compare this to cable companies trying to prevent DBS companies from offering local content. It's just an attempt by old technology to prevent new technology from offering the consumer another alternative, that may meet the needs of some people better than the old technology did.

Even though I don't live in a city large enough to be covered by XM or Sirius' traffic & weather channels, I see the value of them, and I can vouch that they are indeed a national service. I get all of the various channels on my XM unit just fine. Just because the content is local doesn't mean that they don't have another use. I have a few reasons to want to know the weather in Chicago; I have a friend that attends a university near there, and I occasionally drive up there for a trip. I think it's actually rather useful to have access to this information even when I'm out of range of the local terrestrial Chicago radio stations.

Plus, I can only imagine how invaluable this must be for long-haul truck drivers (many of whom have invested in a satellite radio) - they can find out the road conditions for wherever they need to go, so that they can drive safely. I think truck drivers are a very important part of our economy - we should support them. You can't find anything in most people's homes that didn't take a ride on a truck at some point in its life.

Please, don't do anything to support this "power grab" by the local broadcasters. While I don't deny that they do provide valuable services, especially in times of emergency, I don't think they need artificial protection from competition. Even if certain formats of terrestrial radio become less viable, other formats will be developed; there is obviously no shortage of radio formats. People start new ones all the time. Just recently we've seen "Air America", "All Comedy Radio" and others.